

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please amend claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 as follows:

1. (original) An apparatus for preparing coffee, comprising
 - a holder (4) provided with an access opening (24) for placing a product to be extracted into said holder (4);
 - a cover (34) for closing and releasing the access opening (24);
 - clamping means (70) for pressing the holder (4) and cover (34) towards each other when the cover (34) closes off the access opening (24) of the holder (4); and
 - closing means (80) for retaining the cover (34) and the clamping means (70) in position when the cover (34) closes off the access opening (24) of the holder (4), characterized in that the closing means (80) are mechanically coupled to the clamping means (70) for bringing the clamping means (70) from a non-clamping condition into a clamping condition by manually operating the closing means (80) from a first defined position to a second defined position.

2. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clamping means (70) comprise at least one recess (72) and at least one mating cam (74), which can be brought into and out

of engagement with each other by operating the closing means (80) between the first and the second position.

3. (original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the or each cam and the mating recess (72) are located and dimensioned in such way that the cam can only engage the recess (72) when the cover (34) closes off the holder (4) properly.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the or each cam and the recess (72) are wedge-shaped, so that a clamping force can be gradually built up.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the clamping means (70) comprise a series of recesses (72) and a series of mating cams (74), wherein one of these series is statically mounted in a first housing part (2) to which the holder (4) is connected, and the other series is movably mounted in a second housing part (44) to which the cover (34) is connected.

6. (original) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the clamping means (70) are evenly spaced along the periphery of the access opening (24) of the holder (4), at least in the clamped condition.

7. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~5~~⁶, wherein the clamping means (70) are arranged in a triangle around the access opening (24) of the holder (4), wherein a base of the triangle faces a front side of the apparatus via which the holder (4) is accessible when the apparatus is opened.

8. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~5-7~~, wherein the series of movably mounted clamping means (70) is mounted on a slider (75), which slider is movably connected to the second housing part (44) and mechanically coupled to the closing means (80).

9. (original) An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the slider is translatably mounted in the second housing part (44).

10. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim ~~8~~⁹, wherein the slider (75) is rotatably mounted in the second housing part (44).

11. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~8-10~~, wherein the cover (34) is connected to the slider (75), and operated together with said slider (75) and clamping

means (70) by the closing means (80).

12. (currently amended) An apparatus according to ~~any one of the claims 8-11~~, wherein the closing means (80) comprise a toggle joint lever assembly (85), including an angular shaped lever (82A) and a push rod (84), the lever being connected to the second housing part (44), for rotation around a first rotation axis, the lever furthermore being connected near one end to the push rod, for rotation around a second rotation axis, the push rod (84) being with its other end connected to the slider (75), for rotation around a third rotation axis, such that by operating the free end of the lever (82A) between a first position and a second position, the slider (75) is displaced between a first position wherein the clamping means (70) are not engaged and a second position wherein the clamping means (70) are engaged.

13. (original) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the closing means (80) comprise a spring (86), which returns the lever to one of its two positions.

14. (original) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the spring (86) extends between the second housing part (44) and the slider (75) or push rod (84), near the third rotation axis, for forming an overcenter snap link.